

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 OES-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02

NSF-02 EB-07 HEW-06 EPA-04 /050 R

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APPROVED BY EUR - AAHARTMAN

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EUR/P - FSEIDNER

OES/ENP/EN - HSPIELMAN

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O 172035Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MILAN

UNCLAS STATE 230932

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, IT

SUBJECT: DEPT PRESS RELEASE ON SEVESO PROBLEM

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE DATED
SEPTEMBER 17:

QUOTE: AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REGION OF
LOMBARDY AND THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH, A MEETING WAS
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 16 AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES BY ITALIAN AND AMERICAN
SCIENTIFIC AND GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE
RECENT RELEASE OF A TOXIC SUBSTANCE IN ITALY. THE TWO
GROUPS REVIEWED THE PROGRESS MADE TO DATE TO DEAL WITH THE
MEDICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE TRAGEDY WHICH
OCCURRED AT A CHEMICAL PLANT, OWNED BY A SUBSIDIARY OF THE
SWISS HOFFMAN-LA ROCHE COMPANY, LAST JULY IN THE TOWN OF
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SEVESO, ITALY, CAUSING THE RELEASE OF THE SUBSTANCE DIOXIN

(TCDD) INTO THE NEARBY AREA.

LEADING THE ITALIAN GROUP WAS THE PRESIDENT OF THE REGION OF LOMBARDY, CESARE GOLFARI. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DR. LUIGI GIANNICO, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH. THE AMERICAN GROUP CONSISTED OF LEADING EXPERTS OF US GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH HEALTH AND ENVIRON

MENTAL EFFECTS OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES, AS WELL AS DISTINGUISHED EXPERTS FROM AMERICAN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS ON PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH DIOXIN CONTAMINATION. TWO OF THESE EXPERTS WERE DR. JOHN MOORE, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES, AND DR. ALAN POLAND, UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER, WHO HAVE RECENTLY VISITED ITALY TO CONSULT WITH THEIR ITALIAN COLLEAGUES.

AFTER A COMPREHENSIVE PRESENTATION BY THE ITALIAN EXPERTS, DR. SILVIO GARATTINI OF THE MARIO NEGRI INSTITUTE AND DR. GAETANO FARA OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MILAN, OF THE MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO DEAL WITH THE EFFECTS OF THE SEVES EXPLOSION, THE US SCIENTISTS COMMENDED THE PROGRESS MADE THUS FAR AND THE UP-TO-DATE METHODOLOGY BEING USED TO COLLECT AND ANALYZE DATA ON THE EXTENT OF THE CONTAMINATION AND THE DEGREE OF EXPOSURE TO PERSONS IN THE AREA.

THE US EXPERTS MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE ON DIOXIN NOTED THAT TCD IS AN UNDESIRABLE AND UNINTENTIONAL BY-PRODUCT IN ACCIDENT RESULTING FROM CERTAIN CHEMICAL REACTIONS, AND HAS NO INDUSTRIAL, MEDICAL, OR MILITARY APPLICATION. WHEREVER TCDD CONTAMINATION HAS OCCURRED, ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH-RELATED MEASURES HAVE HAD TO BE IMPROVISED. NO SPECIFIC ANTIDOTES HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED IN THE UNITED STATES OR ARE PRESENTLY KNOWN TO EXIST ELSEWHERE WHICH NEUTRALIZE THE EFFECTS OF DIOXIN POISONING.

MEMBERS OF THE GROUP EXPRESSED A MUTUAL INTEREST IN CONTINUING THE ON-GOING PERIODIC CONSULTATION AND EXCHANGE OF DATA. IN VIEW OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND MEDICAL TREATMENT IN THIS FIELD, THE ITALIAN PARTICIPANTS INDICATED AN INTENTION TO INVITE

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EXPERTS FROM THE US AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO VISIT ITALY FROM TIME TO TIME TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS EFFORT. END QUOTE.
ROBINSON

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ORIGIN OES-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-01 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY:OES/ENP/EN:HSPIELMAN:EF

APPROVED BY:OES/ENP/EN:HSPIELMAN

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P 230830Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 230932

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 230932 ACTION ROME MILAN SEP 17.

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, MEDICAL CARE, PRESS RELEASES, CHEMICALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JWSWIHART:JKB
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760352-0209
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760947/aaaabnve.tel
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 FEB 2004
Review Event:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: SWEL, IT, US
To: ROME MILAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006